



The Cleveland Museum of Art

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THE CLEVELAND MUSEUM OF ART PRESENTS FILMS BY BRITISH DIRECTOR DEREK JARMAN

The Late Derek Jarman

Wednesday evenings, February 1-22, 1995

Tickets \$4, \$3 Museum members.

When Britain's Derek Jarman died of AIDS last February at the age of 52, he was the most visible and celebrated gay filmmaker in the world, thanks to one of the surest "eyes" in contemporary cinema. In this series, The Cleveland Museum of Art presents five movies, made at the end of his 23-year film career, which show the breadth of his talent and document the director's confrontation with his impending death.

Certain strains show up in all of Jarman's work. Homoeroticism, punk, autobiography, radical politics, and religious iconography all work together and play against each other in defining his potent vision. His films, ranging from literary adaptations and portrait films to musicals and abstract filmed diaries, tend to be stylized and beautiful, with layers of light, texture, and color that reflect his training as a painter. These five movies (two show on one program) include a literary adaptation (*Edward II*), a portrait film (*Wittgenstein*), and three spellbinding works that create a sort of "death and dying" trilogy: *The Last of England* (1987), *The Garden* (1990), and *Blue* (1993). The tone of these last three films progresses from doom, gloom, anger, and despair to contemplation, serenity, and acceptance, with a parallel aesthetic transition from the dark, spectral images of *The Last of England*, to the ethereal landscapes of *The Garden*, to the unchanging blue screen and thoughtful dialogue of *Blue*. His soundtracks, combining music composed by Simon Fisher Turner with an eclectic mix of text, narration, and sound effects, are universally adventurous and effective. His "stock company" of actors included Tilda Swinton (*Orlando*) and Nigel Terry.

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Press Release

Wednesday/February 1, 7:30 pm *The Last of England*, Gr. Britain, 1987, color, 87 min.

Directed by Derek Jarman, with Tilda Swinton. Kaleidoscopic post-mortem on Thatcher England and British imperialism consisting of sinister images of death and decay. "Visionary cinema at its best...A powerful personal statement." -Jonathan Rosenbaum, *The Chicago Reader*.

Wednesday/February 8, 7:30 pm *The Garden*, Gr. Britain, 1990, color, 90 min. Directed by Derek Jarman, with Tilda Swinton. Persecuted gay lovers take the place of Jesus in this dreamy, angry Passion Play about modern intolerance. Adults only! "(Jarman's) greatest film." -Harlan Kennedy, *Film Comment*.

Wednesday/February 15, 7:30 pm *Edward II*, Gr. Britain, 1991, color, 91 min. Directed by Derek Jarman, with Steven Waddington and Tilda Swinton. Modern dress version of Christopher Marlowe's classic tragedy, about a monarch who rejects his queen in favor of a male lover. Rated R.

Wednesday/February 22, 7:00 pm *Wittgenstein*, Gr. Britain, 1993, color, 75 min. Directed by Derek Jarman, with Karl Johnson, Michael Gough, and Tilda Swinton. Playful, theatrical investigation of the life and work of Austrian philosopher Ludwig Wittgenstein.

Blue, Gr. Britain, 1993, color, 76 min. Directed by Derek Jarman, with the voices of Jarman, John Quentin, Nigel Terry, and Tilda Swinton. Against an empty and unchanging blue screen, AIDS victim Derek Jarman reflects on life and mortality in this unique, haunting film--a missive from beyond the grave. "*Blue* functions as a non-sectarian mass, as heartbreak, and as a benediction. Like a great requiem, it forces you deep into yourself and back up towards the light." -1993 *New York Film Festival catalogue*.